

Discursive Essay

So you need to write a discursive essay? Well, first you are going to need a topic. Then, an argument **for** and **against** it.

Topic: Think of three topics that interest you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Which is your favourite? _____



Argument **for**: Think of three.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Which is your strongest argument(s)?

Argument **against**: Think of three.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Which is your strongest argument(s)?



Supporting Ideas

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Supporting Ideas

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Essay Structure

Introduction.

Main body 1 - Arguments **for** + Supporting details.

Main body 2 - Arguments **against** + Supporting details.

Conclusion - Which argument do you support and why.

Discursive Essay

Main body paragraphs - In a discursive essay, you have to explain the main points without showing bias. This means you have to show a balanced argument **for** and **against**. To help with this you can use modals, **might be - may be - could be**.

Example:

Smoking **is** bad - This can be a strong statement. It also shows the reader that you strongly agree that smoking is bad.

Smoking **might be** bad - This can be a softer statement. It also shows the reader that you do not necessarily support it.

One argument **for** students working part time is that they **will** earn some extra money.

One argument **for** students working part time is that they **might / could** earn some extra money.

Another argument **against** phones in the classroom is that they **distract** students from learning.

Another argument **against** phones in the classroom is that they **might** distract students from learning.

The final argument **for** a longer English course is that it **will** benefit students' language ability.

The final argument **for** a longer English course is that it **could** benefit students' language ability.

Conclusion - In the conclusion, you can reduce the softer, on the fence language such as **may, might**, and **could**. Now, you can start using **should, must, is**, and **will**.

Example:

In my opinion, I think that - smoking **is** bad / smoking **should** be banned.

Without question students **should** work part time, because...

I believe that phones in the classroom **will** help students to become better learners.

A longer English course **will absolutely** benefit students' language proficiency.

Getting married before the age of 20 **will, without doubt**, have a negative impact.

Moving abroad to study **is** an opportunity that students **should** take in order to create a better future for themselves.

Here are some useful cohesive devices (linking words). You **don't** have to use all of them!!!!

Same line of thought

e.g. - and, firstly, secondly, next, furthermore, likewise, in addition, similarly, also, moreover.

Conclusion/summary

e.g. - thus, therefore, consequently, accordingly, in conclusion, in brief, as a result.

Definite statement

e.g. - without question, without doubt, unquestionably, absolutely.

Contrasting idea

e.g. - yet, on the other hand, nevertheless, however, although, conversely, otherwise, on the contrary.

Further examples

because, for instance, since, for example, so that, despite the fact that, accordingly, although, if, though, unless.